

A New Species of *Paranomada* with Notes on *Melecta Thoracica* Cresson

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The following notes are based upon material very kindly submitted for study by Mr. P. H. Timberlake, of the Citrus Experiment Station, Riverside, California.

Paranomada californica new species

Female.—Color black, shining; integument almost impunctate; pubescence white. *Head* with occiput clothed with long, pale hairs; upper frons and vertex subglabrous; antennae with a rosette of long, plumose, white hairs about bases, scape clothed with moderately long, white hairs; clypeus shining, subglabrous, reddish; abdomen pale reddish at base, apices piceous; maxillary palpi with four free segments. *Thorax* black, shining; pronotal collar and tubercles densely clothed with pale hairs; mesoscutum and mesoscutellum subglabrous; metanotum pubescent, more densely at sides; mesepisterna with vertical face densely clothed with appressed white hairs; propodeum with dense patches of white pubescence on lateral margin, over anterior angles of triangular area, and on each side of posterior angle of area; intermediate and posterior coxae broadly lamellate; wings tinted with fuscous, anterior pair with a large pale area beyond submarginal and discoidal cells; veins and stigma dark brown. *Abdomen* black, shining, with a velvety band of plumose white pubescence along apical margin of tergites two, three, and four, band of second tergite broadly, of third tergite narrowly, interrupted at middle; pygidial plate elongate, apex narrowly triangular, emarginate. Length 7 mm., anterior wing 5 mm.

Male.—Form a little more slender than female; abdominal bands broadly interrupted on second tergite, successively less broadly interrupted on tergites three, four, and five; pygidial plate narrow, apex narrowly rounded; genitalia with sagittae about as long as stipites, nearly straight externally. Length 7 mm., anterior wing, 5.5 mm.

Holotype female and *allotype* male (Timberlake Collection), from Yucca Valley, San Bernardino County, CALIFORNIA, September 28, 1944, collected by Mr. P. H. Timberlake. Both examples were captured flying close to the ground at flowers of *Gutierrezia lucida* in company with *Exomalopsis verbesinae* Ckll. Mr. Timberlake suggests that *Exomalopsis* may be the host of this genus, calling attention to the fact that the two fly together and share a striking similarity in general appearance and sculpture.

This species is closely related to *P. velutina* Linsley (Arizona and Lower California), differing at once from *P. nitida* Linsley and Michener (Arizona) in the black color and four-segmented maxillary palpi. From *P. velutina* it may be distinguished by the white rather than ochraceous or golden pubescence, and the interrupted pubescent bands of the abdomen (in the female, broadly interrupted on second tergite, narrowly on third; in male, very broadly on second tergite, successively more narrowly on third, fourth, and fifth tergites.) The female may be further distinguished by the more narrowly triangular pygidial plate, the male also by the narrow pygidial plate which is narrowly rounded at apex, and possibly also by the slightly longer sagittae of the genitalia. These differences are expressed in the following key:

Females

1. Color black; maxillary palpi with four free segments. 2
 Color pale reddish-brown; maxillary palpi with five free segments; abdominal tergites two to four with white pubescent bands; wings clouded with pale brownish, veins and stigma light brown. 7.5 mm. Arizona. *nitida*
2. Pubescent bands of abdominal tergites ochraceous or golden, entire; pygidial plate more broadly triangular, apex subtruncate. 8.5-11 mm. Arizona and Lower California
velutina
 Pubescent bands of abdominal tergites white, broadly interrupted at middle of second tergite, narrowly on third tergite; pygidial plate more narrowly triangular, apex shallowly emarginate. 7 mm. So. California. . . *californica*

Males

1. Pubescent bands of abdominal tergites two to five golden or ochraceous, entire; pygidial plate broadly subtriangular, apex broadly truncate. 8.5–10.5 mm. Arizona and Lower California.....*velutina*
- Pubescent bands of abdominal tergites two to five white, widely interrupted at middle on second tergite, successively more narrowly interrupted on tergites three, four, and five; pygidial plate narrow, apex narrowly rounded. 7 mm. So. California.....*californica*

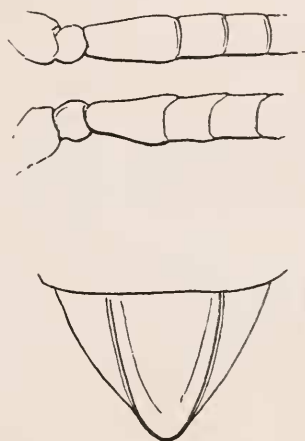


Figure 1. *Melecta thoracica* Cresson, female. Above: basal antennal segments in dorsal view (upper) and frontal view (lower). Below: pygidial plate. $\times 18$.

***Melecta (Melecta) thoracica* Cresson [Fig. 1]**

Melecta thoracica Cresson has not been recognized by recent workers. In my revision of nearctic Melectinae,¹ it was placed in the keys on the basis of the extremely brief original description and the few structural characters subsequently mentioned by Viereck.² These characters appear, however, to be valid and definitive, especially the form of the pygidial plate of the

¹ Linsley, E. G., 1939, Ann. Ent. Soc. Amer., 32: 429–468, figs. 1–9.

² Viereck, H. L., 1903, Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc., 29: 179.

sixth abdominal tergite of the female and the proportions of the flagellar segments of the antennae (fig. 1). A fuller description follows:

Female.—Black, pubescence of occiput, dorsum of thorax, and first abdominal tergite ochraceous to fulvous, remaining pubescence black. *Head* densely clothed with long, erect, black hairs at sides of face and about antennal bases, upper frons and clypeus thinly pubescent; upper frons and vertex closely, moderately coarsely punctate, median ocellus without a shining, impunctate triangular area in front, a distinct, elevated carina present between antennal bases and extending to base of clypeus; antennae piceous, first flagellar segment distinctly longer than second; clypeus moderately shining, finely, irregularly punctate, more coarsely and densely at base on each side of a smooth, median longitudinal basal line, base thinly clothed with long, fine, black hairs; mandibles pale, base and apex piceous. *Thorax* densely pubescent; mesoscutum with surface obscured by the long erect pubescence, surface apparently closely punctate; mesoscutellum with dorsal lobes armed with a spine which is much shorter than, and largely obscured by, the long erect hairs; mesepisterna opaque, coarsely, closely punctured, clothed with black hairs which do not obscure surface; wings dark brownish; legs moderately densely pubescent. *Pro-podeum* with enclosure finely punctate, nearly glabrous, otherwise clothed with long, erect, black hairs. *Abdomen* dark brownish or piceous, dull, surface tessellate, finely sparsely punctate; first tergite clothed with long, depressed or suberect, ochraceous or fulvous hairs except for a narrow median line and posterior margin, remaining segments with a few, coarse, suberect black hairs at sides; pygidial plate elongate triangular, flat, sides straight, apex evenly rounded, not liguliform. Length approximately 15 mm.

Described from a female from Buffalo, South Dakota, June 16, 1941 (H. C. Severin).

There is considerable uncertainty about the type of this species. In his original description, Cresson³ states, "1 speci-

³ Cresson, E. T., 1875, Wheeler Exp., Zool., 5: 726.

men; Eastern Nevada; 1872; Dr. H. C. Yarrow," in his catalogue of North American Apidae,⁴ he gives the distribution as "Colorado and Nevada," and in his list of types,⁵ he records the type locality as "Colorado." Mr. E. T. Cresson, Jr., who very kindly looked into the matter for the writer, reports that the putative type bears the following labels: (1) "Col," (2) "♀," (3) "Holotype 2286," (4) "M. thoracica." Mr. C. F. W. Muesebeck, who made a search for the Nevada specimen in the collections of the United States National Museum, which contain some of the material from the Wheeler Expedition, was unable to locate it. It is reasonable to suppose, therefore, that the Cresson type designation is in error and the type lost.

A New Henicopid Centiped from Utah

By RALPH V. CHAMBERLIN, University of Utah

In a small collection of centipeds and millipeds made by Prof. C. L. Hayward on the slopes of the Wasatch Mountains east of Provo, Utah, is a single specimen representing a new genus in the family Henicopidae. It belongs in the subfamily Zygethobiinae, the type of which is *Zygethobius*, a genus erected by the author many years ago for another Utah species living at high elevations in the Uintah and Wasatch Mountains. The present genus is the second one of the group to be found in which ocelli are wholly lacking.

Genus *Yobius*, new

This is a henicopid genus of the Zygethobiinae, a subfamily characterized by lacking spiracles on the first pediferous segment. It is like *Bucthobius* in lacking ocelli, but differs in having the tarsi of all legs biarticulate. The key given below will aid in placing the new genus among those previously known in the subfamily.

⁴ Cresson, E. T., 1879, Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc., 7: 218.

⁵ Cresson, E. T., 1916, Mem. Amer. Ent. Soc., 1: 132.